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夏目イサク
Isaku NATSUME
Drama CD
[Ameiro Paradox③]
On sale on
February 26, 2016!!
CAST
Onoe Kendou Takashi
Katsuragi Maeno Tomoaki
Kasai Furukawa Makoto
Finally, the curtain of Sougorou and Gensuke's first performance together is rising...!
A picture scroll about two heirs in the theatrical world!!
花恋つらね
3rd Act

The story so far

The heir of the prominent Tamana family in Kabuki world, Sougorou is a young actor who mainly does female roles. One day, it was decided that he'd perform with his classmate, Gensuke, who's also the heir of another high-profile family in Kabuki. Ever since he first saw Gensuke's acting, he's seen the guy as his rival, so he had a hard time acting as a married couple with the guy he hates. But for some reason Gensuke kindly helped him out so he could get a good grasp of his role.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE

SEE YOU, HIROTO.

OKAY. TAKE CARE.

Eh? Sou-chan, are you going back already?

YEAH. I HAVE AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH.

I see. Good luck~

From today onward, for 25 days, I'll only attend the morning classes.

After that, it's show time.

Sou-sama~! We've bought our tickets so we'll be watching you next week!

THANK YOU!

+THIS IS ONLY A WORK OF FICTION. IT IS IN NO WAY RELATED TO ANY CHARACTERS, ORGANIZATIONS OR EVENTS IN REAL LIFE.

Ah Someone's here to pick me up? I'm already...
Of course, I'll be going with Gensuke
CLACK
AH FINALLY
Matsukura Sougorou (real name: Azuma Shiuyo) ●The heir of a prominent family in Kaiuuk world Tamona. Mainly takes on female roles. A third-year high school student.
.....
FINALLY, YOU SAY, IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN 10 MINUTES
IS THAT SO?
Ara, Gensuke (real name: Nada Jumpei) ●The heir of Ootori family. A promising young actor who always plays the lead. Sougorou's classmate
oOO
GENSUKE'S IN OUR CAR. IT FEELS WEIRD SOMEHOW...
CLOSE
WELCOME BACK, YOUNG MASTER
I'M BACK, CHUU-SAN
THEN, SHALL WE GO~
PLEASE DO
YEAH
Tsuchiya Hiroto ● Sougorou's classmate. An actor who started acting as a kid.

...NOT REALLY...
Everyone already knows we're performing together
IF WE DID THAT, THEY'D THINK THAT WE WERE CLOSE AND IT'D BE WEIRD, RIGHT?
BY THE WAY... SOUGOROU.
WHY CAN'T WE MEET UP IN THE CLASSROOM WHEN WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER ANYWAY?
Even though we're classmates.
HM?
VROOOOM
IT'S THE FIRST DAY—
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST FELT THIS NERVOUS. I COULDN'T SLEEP MUCH YESTERDAY
WHAT?
WELL, WHATEVER.
ARGH~~ BUT— THIS IS BAD
I see.
SO HE GETS NERVOUS AS WELL, HUH?
THAT'S UNEXPECTED
Since he's always so laid-back
My father even said he wouldn't forgive me if I messed up.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED IT'S MY FIRST PERFORMANCE ON TAMANO FAMILY'S MAIN STAGE
THE PRESSURE'S MASSIVE, YOU KNOW
EH?!
WHAT? ARE YOU GETTING STAGE FRIGHT?

WELL,
JUST DO IT LIKE DURING PRACTICE...
Don't drag me down, you hear?
Argh Damn
I KNOW THAT AL-READY!
HE'H
I shouldn't have...
I..acted all high and mighty like that
I GOT CARRIED AWAY SINCE I'VE BEEN DOING WELL DURING PRACTICE
WHICH REMINDS ME, I HAVE TO REDEEM MYSELF AFTER THE HORRIBLE REVIEWS I GOT LAST TIME
I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN CRISIS HERE!!

What if I get severe criticism again this time...
I guess Sougorou's finished
I'll never go see Sougorou's play ever again.
Give me back my money
What a lousy actor.
...Chuu-san.
YES?
THIS IS BAD... I REALLY WANT TO GO HOME NOW...
EH?!
WHAT'S WRONG?! YOU WERE SO LIVELY JUST NOW.
THE CRUEL REALITY FINALLY HIT ME AS SOON AS I PUT MY COSTUME ON.
THAT IS, FROM HEREON OUT, IT'S THE REAL DEAL...
YOU ONLY REALIZED THAT NOW?!
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION.
GENSUKE →
OH

I SEE~~
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH~~
What's that? A killer whale?
OOOOH-HHH~~
AS EXPECTED, YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY.
NAH, IT'S JUST THAT, ALTHOUGH I SEE YOU ON STAGE ALL THE TIME,
YOU ALSO LOOK BEAUTIFUL UP-CLOSE.
HOLD ON...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT!
YEAH SEEMS LIKE YOUNG MASTER SUDDENLY GOT ALL NERVOUS.
BUT SOMEHOW, YOU SEEM KIND OF DOWN?

DON'T WORRY.
JUST DO IT LIKE DURING PRACTICE
.....
AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY ACTING BIG. I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENTS IN ACTING AND THIS IS AS GOOD AS I'M GONNA GET (EGO SEARCH).
SHUT UP! SORRY FOR ACTING HIGH AND MIGHTY!
AFTER ALL THE SPEECH YOU GAVE ME EARLIER, SERIOUSLY?!
HA HA HA HA
I'M SURE THE AUDIENCE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE SUCH A CUTE CHIDORI!
JUST LIKE ME.

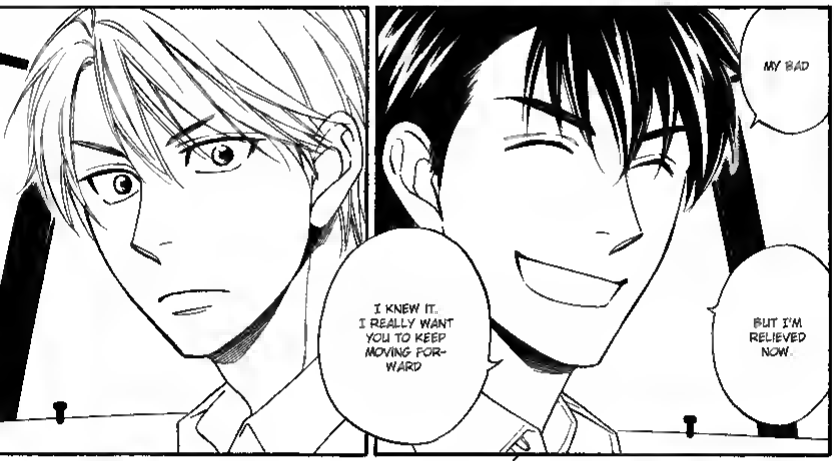
WHA...
SO SO IT'S ALL ABOUT MY LOOK?!
IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART IN ACTING
Then, see you later~
Is it true?
SLIDE
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CLAP

I wonder...
...if everyone...
...would really feel happy?

WOW
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

THE NEXT DAY
AHH... THANK GOODNESS. IT ALL WENT WELL YESTERDAY...
OH... SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER AND THERE WERE PEOPLE WAITING AND PRAISING ME AS I WAS LEAVING...
AND MY GRANDFATHER DIDN'T SCOLD ME...
YEAH...
...BUT I'M GLAD IT WENT WELL
EH?
THANKS TO THAT, I'M IN TOP CONDITION NOW. EVEN THE WEATHER IS NICE. I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO IT WELL TODAY, TOO
THAT'S GOOD
WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH THE WEATHER?

YOU SEE... YOU'D BEEN PRETTY DEPRESSED FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE OF THE REVIEWS FOR THAT PLAY, "GOROZOU," LAST MONTH,
SO I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU'D COPE IF YOU'D REMAINED IN THAT STATE
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO UNLUCKY LIKE THAT!
I MEAN, STOP GOING ON ABOUT THE PAST ALREADY! AND I WAS FEELING REALLY GOOD AS WELL!

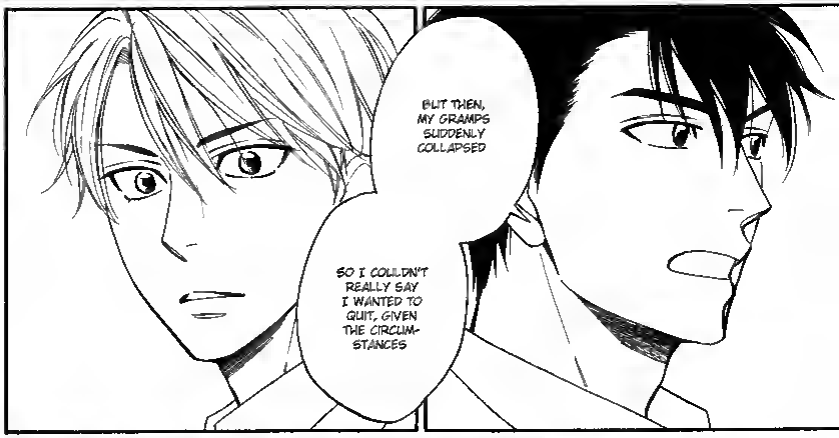

MY BAD
I KNEW IT. I REALLY WANT YOU TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD
BUT I'M RELIEVED NOW.

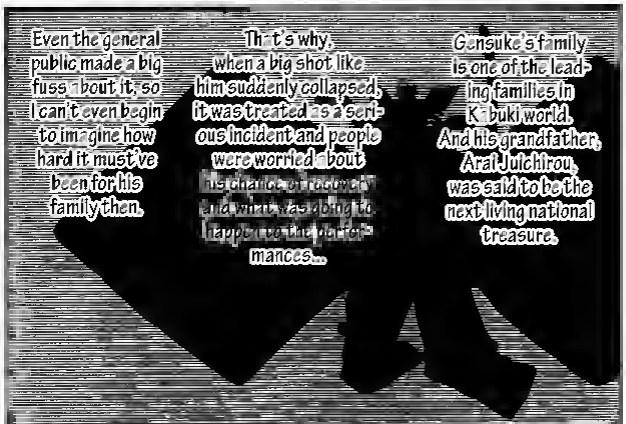
How suspicious.
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT'S... WITH YOU REALLY?
.....

Speaking of which, what did he mean by "here" last time? So confusing.
Does it have anything to do with this?
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. IN SHORT, I'M YOUR FAN, YOU KNOW.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'D BEEN STUBBORNLY AVOIDING ME.
LATELY... YOU'VE BEEN SUPER FRIENDLY... YOU EVEN SAID THINGS THAT SOUNDED LIKE COMPLIMENTS.
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
How mean...
FAN??!!
HUH? HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU?
FA...
EH?!

IT'S MY FIRST TIME HEARING THAT!
IS THAT SO? I'VE BEEN ONE FOR A WHILE, ACTUALLY
IS THAT TRUE?! SINCE WHEN?! MORE DETAILS, PLEASE!!
Ootani family's young master is your young master's fan?!
CHIJI-SAN, YOU'RE GETTING OVEREXCITED!
Seriously? Is he telling the truth?
BUT, DON'T YOU ALSO WANT TO KNOW, YOUNG MASTER?!
EH?! WELL, THAT'S—
OF COURSE I DO.
I won't believe you until you spill some more details
EH—
WELL— TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
……

I'VE BEEN YOUR FAN SINCE I FIRST SAW YOUR PLAY DURING MY FIRST YEAR IN SECONDARY SCHOOL.
FIRST YEAR IN SECONDARY SCHOOL?! THAT LONG AGO?!
I'D GROWN TO DISLIKE KABUKI AT THAT TIME.
I KEPT THINKING ABOUT SKIPPING PRACTICE AND EVEN TRIED TO FIND WAYS TO QUIT ONCE AND FOR ALL.




Even the general public made a big fuss about it, so I can't even begin to imagine how hard it must've been for his family then.
That's why, when a big shot like him suddenly collapsed, it was treated as a serious incident and people were worried about his chance of recovery and what was going to happen to the performances...
Gensuke's family is one of the leading families in Kabuki world. And his grandfather, Arai Juichirou, was said to be the next living national treasure.

I still remember clearly what happened that time.

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ENJOYING IT SO MUCH.
AND WHILE THINKING ABOUT THAT, I SAW YOU ON STAGE
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DO MY BEST, TOO...

And you captured everyone's attention
Your acting was bold,
radiant ..

It's the same...
AAH... HOW WONDERFUL...
I ALSO WANT TO STAND ON THE STAGE AND ACT LIKE THAT... THAT WAS WHAT I THOUGHT...
...as what I thought that time.
YOU'RE A WEIRD GUY
WEREN'T THERE A LOT OF GREAT ACTORS IN THAT PLAY?
RATHER THAN A CHILD ACTOR LIKE ME, SHOULDN'T YOU ADMIRE ONE OF THEM INSTEAD?

HEY!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT BACK THEN, TO ME, YOU WERE THE COOLEST
I STILL BELIEVE THAT MATSUKAWA SOUGOROU IS CAPABLE OF SO MUCH MORE.
THAT'S WHY, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR BEST CONDITION
Isn't it great, young master?!
I had no idea...
Such a touching story~
Chuu-san, are you crying?!

...such a thing actually happened
SAY, HIROTO
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SOUGO?
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOMETHING?
To think you used to say bad things about him even when he wasn't around
Ah~ The atmosphere's so much nicer when that guy's not here~!
WELL, YOU SEE, A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED
SPLURT
GENSUKE MIGHT NOT BE AS BAD AS I THOUGHT
I feel happy
AAHH... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
He praised you, I see
Heheh
THAT IS, HE ACKNOWLEDGES ME?
THAT GUY ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS ME QUITE WELL

I FEEL
REALLY HAPPY.
Hey!
TAMANO!
YE-S-
Chu-
Chu-u-n.

WOW
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HEY TAMANO!

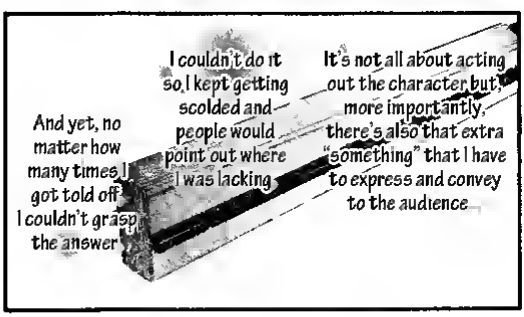
IT...
I'M SO DAMN HAPPY...!
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I GOT CALLED OUT
SERIOUSLY?!
Good for you!
WELL DONE
YEAH YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM?
THE REVIEWS ON THE INTERNET ARE ALSO PRETTY GOOD YOU KNOW
ON THE INTERNET?
BUT THIS TIME THE AUDIENCE IS REALLY HARD TO PLEASE, HUH?
TO THINK THEY ONLY ASKED FOR AN ENCORE JUST BEFORE THE FINAL WEEK

docomo LTE
21:14
I went to see Shunkan! Seems like Sougorou got better all of a sudden I wonder what happened?
□□□□
Sougorou did well this time
□□□□
I could see Sougorou's improved a lot in the role of Chidori in Shunkan
□□□□
Chidori was so cute~! I want a bride like that lol
□□□□
The potential of an heir
□□□□
I wasn't expecting much from Chidori but he acted unexpectedly well
□□□□
Sou-sama was so great~ Though I couldn't understand the story much lol
!!!!
SUCH A THING
I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO THOUGH!
OOH
Di-! he get his confidence back?
HEH
HEHEHE-HEHEH...

this time, I completely forgot all about it.
It's true though... Even though it'd always bothered me before,
WAS IT BECAUSE IT WAS GOING SO WELL?
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO IT BECAUSE I LIKE IT!
BUT HEY, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD'VE CHECKED THIS STUFF OUT ALREADY
BGO SEARCH, WAS IT... YOU LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?

AH... ONLY EVERY NOW AND THEN
BUT THIS TIME I REALLY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE AUDIENCE THINKS
I thought you're the type that doesn't care about such things
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU ALSO CHECK THAT STUFF OUT, HUH?

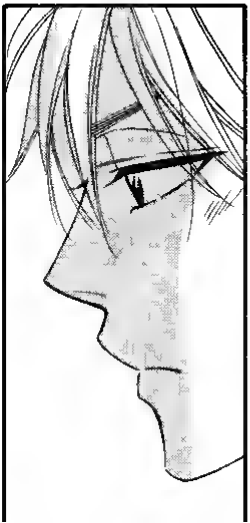
IT'S OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE TOGETHER AFTER ALL

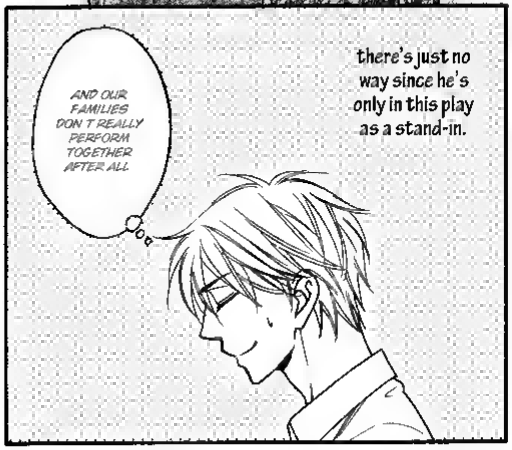

And yet, no matter how many times I got told off, I couldn't grasp the answer.
I couldn't do it so I kept getting scolded and people would point out where I was lacking.
It's not all about acting out the character but, more importantly, there's also that extra "something" that I have to express and convey to the audience.

However,

I was troubled and depressed about it.

this time,
when I was acting
with Gensuke,
I was simply
having fun





Only seven days left till the last day..
AH! GENSUKE-SAN!
THERE YOU ARE
?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHUU-SAN?
YOUNG MASTER'S HERE, TOO PERFECT TIMING
MASTER KIKUEMON SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO TELL YOU GUYS
EH?

.....
WAIT-ING IN SEIZA POSITION
T/N: SEIZA MEANS KNEELING WITH THE TOPS OF THE FEET FLAT ON THE FLOOR AND SITTING ON THE SOLES
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS TO TALK TO US ABOUT...
HE'S NOT GOING TO TELL US OFF, IS HE?
rattle
!
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BEEN DOING PRETTY WELL...
AAH YOU TWO, GOOD JOB

I'M SORRY, GENSUKE FOR SUDDENLY CALLING YOU OUT LIKE THIS
It's not a practice session so just sit normally
OH, IT'S FINE. I WAS ABOUT TO HEAD BACK ANYWAY
Now then
I KNOW YOU'RE BOTH TIRED SO I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
SOUGOROU, YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN TAKEICHI'S INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE THE MONTH AFTER NEXT, RIGHT?
EH? YEAH
Is this about the next play?
SO IT'S NOT THAT HE'S UNHAPPY WITH THIS ONE?
AND SO I'VE HAD A TALK WITH THE OOTANI FAMILY
GENSUKE, YOU HAVE THAT MONTH FREE, DON'T YOU?
Matsukawa Kikusuimon ● Sougorou's grandfather as well as his teacher. Famous for his female roles.
AH
YES
IN THAT CASE I WANT YOU
TO TAKE ON A ROLE IN TAKEICHI'S PLAY... TOO.

EH?!
EH— BUT—
—AFTER WATCHING YOU TWO PERFORM TOGETHER
I'VE BEEN THINKING—
OBVIOUSLY, I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TAKEICHI'S APPROVAL
ISN'T THAT AN INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE? DOESN'T THAT MEAN— TAKEICHI-SAN'S ALREADY DECIDED ON THE SCRIPT AND CAST?

Gramps just smiled!!
—EH?
HEH
WON'T THINGS BECOME MORE INTERESTING FROM NOW ON?
—IF YOU TWO CAN WORK WELL TOGETHER,
THE FIRST ACT WILL BE
HAS THE MUSICAL PROGRAM BEEN DECIDED ALREADY?
"SANNIN KICHISA"
To Be Continued

T/N: IT'S THE FIRST ACT IN THE KABUKI PLAY,"SANNIN KICHISA KURUWA NO HATSUGAI" (THREE KICHISABUROS GO SHO[illegible]ING AT THE NEW YEAR IN THE PLEASURE QUARTERS) WHICH HAS SEVEN ACTS IN TOTAL, WRITTEN BY KAWATAKE MOKUAMI.

Thank you for reading!

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